



Woodford Community Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 JANUARY 2010 AT THE VICARAGE, CHESTER ROAD, WOODFORD

PRESENT

Mr K Coxey	Chairman
Mrs H Buszard	Secretary
Mrs M Wood	Treasurer

Mr F Brown, Mr S Downes, Mr P Crompton, Dr L Evans, Mr D Hall, Revd J Knowles, Councillor B Leck, Mr P Rodman, Mr C Roscoe, Mrs M White.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Mr R Beatham and Mr I Hanson.

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2010 and gave a particular welcome to Mr Brown, who had been elected as new member of the Council at the 2009 AGM. He noted that Mr Hanson, who had also indicated an interest in the work of the WCC, was unfortunately not able to attend.

He was pleased to report that the difficult issues relating to WWMCC, which had taken up so much time in the previous year, had now been resolved and he congratulated Dr Evans and others on helping to achieve this. He reminded members that the important issues in the coming year would undoubtedly be the future of the BAE site and possible progress on the building of new roads under SEMMMS. Relating to that, he was concerned that that the WCC might have insufficient funds if it needed to undertake major communication exercises or take professional advice on behalf of the community. He therefore asked members to consider possible ways by which WCC could raise funds or seek further financial support. Another issue, which he had discussed with the Secretary, was how the WCC could help vulnerable people in the community when there were problems such as those caused by the recent icy conditions, the main problem being how to find out who might actually need assistance.

ACTION: All

Finally, he indicated that since this was his third year as Chairman, he would be standing down from the role before the next AGM. He also reminded everyone that in accordance with the Constitution, members were elected to serve for three-year terms and one third should retire each year on a rolling basis, although they would be eligible for re-election.

2. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting, held on 26 October 2009, were approved as a correct record, subject to the addition of the following after sentence 1 in Paragraph 2 of Minute 5:

‘Mr Coxey had received a further apology rescinding other claims that had been made against him. Mrs. Hadley’s claim for unfair dismissal had been settled out of court.’

The draft Minutes of the 2009 AGM were considered and accepted, subject to any further comments, which should be submitted to the Secretary by 31 January 2010.

ACTION: All

The draft Minutes would then be made available on the website and put forward for approval at the 2010 AGM.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minute 8.1 Litter Day

The Chairman reported that the turnout for the Litter Day held on 28 November 2009 had been slightly disappointing, although he recognised that this had probably not been the best time of year. However, there had been good support from representatives of SMBC Environmental Services and a short report and photograph had appeared in the local newspaper and was given on the WCC website.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

The Treasurer reported that donations totalling £90.70 had been received at the AGM and that a further donation of £150 had been received from a local business, whose details had been included on website. It was agreed that in future any businesses requesting inclusion should be asked to make a donation towards the running costs of the website.

She confirmed that the present balance was £620.30 and that an application could now be made for the second part of the grant for the website. This would help to pay the running costs for the next year or two and also included an allocation for training.

5. SUB-GROUP REPORTS

(a) BAE site

Mr Rodman reported that he and Mr Crompton had attended a further meeting of the BAE Local Consultative Group on 2 December 2009 and he gave a detailed summary of the discussions. BAE were using Cass Associates of Liverpool – an architectural and planning consultancy group - to put forward proposals for the future development of the site and these proposals had been submitted in response to the Stockport’s Core Strategy consultation document. They could still be viewed on the SMBC website, together with all other comments submitted.

The key points included the construction of 800 to 900 new houses and the creation of 2500 high value jobs on the site. In response to this, the WCC representatives had challenged hard on infrastructure issues, such as schools, roads, access points etc, but had not received satisfactory responses. The provision of a new school was apparently not included in the proposals because of the extra costs involved. Even if the total number of new houses built was reduced to about 500 to 600 – which seemed to be a likely scenario – this would not be acceptable, give the current shortage of school places at schools such as Queensgate.

One issue of major concern was the fact that Stockport Council was not represented on this Group. An invitation had been sent to the Leader of Stockport Council, Mr Goddard, but he had not attended either this or the previous meeting. This left the WCC representatives alone in fighting Woodford's corner, since the other attendees were mainly from Cheshire, including Poynton and East Cheshire councillors. It was agreed that the WCC should write to Mr Goddard proposing that he nominate one of the councillors from Bramhall West Ward to receive invitations to attend future meetings of the Consultative Group.

ACTION: Secretary

It was noted that there had been indications that Stockport Council was in separate talks with BAE – indeed this was a concern expressed by some Poynton representatives – and it was felt that it was not acceptable for these to take place 'behind closed doors'.

It was also suggested that one of the main aims of Poynton's representatives appeared to be the release of land across the east end of the runway to re-route the Poynton By-pass.

The Chairman thanked Mr Rodman and also Mr Downes and Mr Crompton for their valuable contributions to these discussions and concluded by reiterating the need for the WCC to keep monitoring the situation very closely.

(b) SEMMMS

Dr Evans noted that there was no further information available. It was recognised that although central funding had been allocated, a change in government after the General Election might affect priorities and that there were therefore no guarantees that the roads would be built. Even if the scheme went ahead, there were still many formalities to be completed before construction could start.

(c) Woodford War Memorial Community Centre

Mr Crompton gave a short report on the activities of the Management Committee. He noted that a maintenance sub-committee, of which he was member, had been set up to assess all the work that would be needed on the Centre and to draw up a 10-year maintenance plan covering routine and longer term requirements with priorities. He also reported that the caretaker had left and that the Committee was looking to broaden the role to take on some of the routine maintenance jobs. Dr Evans commented that when he had been on the Committee he had helped to prepare a document that split the maintenance requirements into three areas – jobs that could be undertaken by a caretaker, work that could be done by volunteers and work that needed professional expertise. He agreed to forward a copy to Mr Crompton.

ACTION: Dr Evans

It was noted that the next meeting of the Management Committee was being held on Wednesday, 13 January 2010.

(d) WCC Website

The Chairman commented that he was very pleased to see that the website was being kept fully up to date and thanks were expressed to Mr Gallagher for his quick response to requests to upload information.

The Secretary reported that the Garden Centre had donated a £10 voucher for the Christmas competition, but there had been such a poor response that the prize had not been awarded and would be carried forward for a future event. She noted that a Woodford resident had offered a bottle of champagne as a prize for the next competition and it was agreed that this should be a photography competition based on the theme 'Woodford in the snow – the big freeze'.

She also asked members to check the website regularly and report any problems with links that no longer worked or information that might need to be updated or archived.

ACTION: All

It was suggested that it would be good to include information about Woodford's aviation heritage on the website. Mr Rodman drew attention to the AVRO Heritage Museum on the BAE site and agreed to forward details. The Chairman offered to collate the information and contributions from all WCC members would be welcomed.

ACTION: Mr Rodman, Chairman

(e) Stockport Council Issues

Cllr Leck reported that the Council budget for the forthcoming year had been fixed, with an expected increase of 5 %. He also noted that over the next four years there would be an anticipated budget deficit of some £45m.

(f) General Planning Applications

It was noted that there were no applications of particular interest relating to Woodford.

A query was raised with respect to Hill Top Farm and the number of lorries still going in and out. It was understood that these were bringing topsoil for landscaping, as covered by the planning agreement, but Cllr Leck offered to check the current position and specified completion date.

ACTION: Cllr Leck

(g) Footpaths

It was noted that completion of the public footpath assessment had been delayed because of the poor weather, but volunteers were asked to submit their reports to the Chairman as soon as possible.

It was reported that there were problems with uneven and badly maintained pavements in Bridle Road and also along Chester Road in the vicinity of No 525 because of tree roots. Cllr Leck agreed to raise this with the appropriate Council Department.

ACTION: Cllr Leck

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Fund raising

Mr Rodman suggested that consideration could be given to holding an event at the Community Centre later in the year. A small subcommittee comprising Mr Rodman, Mrs Wood and Mrs White was set up to pursue this.

ACTION: Mr Rodman, Mrs Wood, Mrs White

7. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

The timetable for meetings to be held in 2010 was provisionally set as follows:

Thursday, 18 March
Monday, 17 May
Tuesday, 6 July
Thursday, 23 September
Monday, 25 Oct

All meetings would be held at the Vicarage and start at 7.30 pm.

Members would be notified by the Secretary if any changes needed to be made to these arrangements.

It was agreed that, subject to confirmation with the WWMCC, the 2010 AGM would be held on Thursday, 25 November 2010.

ACTION: Secretary, Mr Crompton

Approved

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